

An aerial view of Sydney, Australia, featuring the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the foreground, the Sydney city skyline in the background, and Luna Park in the lower left. The text 'WE MEAN BUSINESS SYDNEY' is overlaid in large white letters.

WE MEAN BUSINESS SYDNEY

Business Sydney is a proud champion of Australia's only truly global city devoted to making it an even better place to live, work and do business.

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BUSINESS SYDNEY STATE ELECTION PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

These are Business Sydney's ambitious policy ideas for the NSW Election on 25 March 2023

1. Acknowledge Sydney's status as Australia's only truly world city by having a designated Minister for Sydney to streamline all aspects of the city's development to achieve economic growth, support entrepreneurship and drive job creation, and eliminate bureaucratic inertia that too often holds back the nation's greatest city.

Outcome: Having a Minister for Sydney with the power and influence of being a senior State Cabinet member will contribute to speeding up planning processes, fast track essential development decisions and reduce bureaucratic time wasting that hinders and discourages the proponents of city-building infrastructure and other developments that will enhance Sydney's position as a world city.

2. Build a STEM Centre of Excellence at the Tech Central precinct for senior high school students specialising in STEM and IT/Tech subjects.

Outcome: More parents attracted to work in the city after dropping their children at the school and fostering a new generation for whom being part of city life is also a key component of their lives.

3. Double the size of the CBD's permanent population from the current 300,000 to 600,000 within 10 years.

Outcome: Increased foot traffic in the city to benefit businesses that are facing devastating increases in the cost of doing business, and to enhance the city's vibrancy as a 24-hour city.

4. Increased funding for Destination NSW, the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and Business Events Sydney to attract more visitors by developing 'Brand Sydney' with attractions that extend beyond traditional drawcards such as the Harbour, Opera House and beaches.

Outcome: A greater focus on arts and cultural institutions, live music and performance venues, al-fresco dining and the development of multicultural precincts.

5. Construct permanent outdoor performance shells-stages in The Domain, at Parramatta and in the Western Parklands.

Outcome: answers Sydney's need for an entertainment facility for up to 20,000 patrons. Provide facilities that are comparable to Melbourne's Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

6. Upgrade and maintain Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital in their current locations.

Outcome: The retention of two hospitals that have served Sydney's health needs and remain relevant into the future. Sydney Hospital fulfills the city's need for acute health services in the heart of the CBD less affected by congestion that could otherwise delay care.

7. Appoint an Arts and Culture Commissioner with strategies to coordinate the offering of all the city's remarkable arts and cultural institutions united under a single operating authority.

Outcome: Bringing all of Sydney's publicly and privately funded arts and cultural institutions and venues together in a way that builds and enhances Sydney's reputation as Australia's arts and cultural centre.

8. Develop the Entertainment Quarter at Moore Park into a huge centre of entertainment, dining, retail, and recreation to attract Sydneysiders and tourists.

Outcome: Maintain the Moore Park precinct as a hub for entertainment and world class sporting events with public transport and parking facilities appropriate to its role.

9. Develop and execute strategies that restore the vibrancy, colour and crowds to Oxford Street that made it a Sydney icon but which now suffers from fragmented planning in being shared by two separate local councils, City of Sydney and Woollahra.

Outcome: The length of Oxford Street brought under one council authority, the City of Sydney. Encouragement of mixed use of empty shops and offices with more al-fresco dining along with pop-up day-and-night retail and dining to restore the strip as a 'go to' attraction.

10. Appoint a Homelessness Commissioner for Sydney to oversee and coordinate the various charities and government programs that are currently active but operating separately.

Outcome: Applying best practice from comparable overseas cities that give the homeless an option preferable to living rough. The lessons of the pandemic would be applied to ensure long-term accommodation is available for those who need it in a timely way.